

**Referring Physicians to the Medical Board**

**Letter #1**

**Suggested letter to physicians after FIRST failure to report TB or an emergency condition**

Date

Address

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_:

Your patient, \_\_\_\_\_, has \_\_\_\_\_, a communicable disease that is reportable to the health department by California law and regulation. Please provide the information requested on the enclosed form.

Many physicians are unaware of the laws and regulations of the State of California requiring that certain communicable diseases be reported to the local health department. Other physicians assume it is the laboratory's responsibility to report. California Health and Safety Code Section 120250 and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500 clearly state that the physician is required to report the listed communicable diseases. Patient consent is not required for reporting purposes. All states in the United States have similar laws. The information generated by these requirements is used to identify epidemics; interrupt transmission; establish risk factors for disease; track trends in communicable diseases at the local, state and national levels; and develop policies for prevention of disease.

In December 1996, the Medical Board of California adopted a procedure for citing and fining physicians who fail to adhere to the reporting laws and regulations of the State of California. Failure to report this disease precludes any intervention by local public health to prevent transmission to others. Because of the public health significance of such actions, continued failure to report on your part in a complete and timely fashion as specified in the laws and regulations will result in a referral to the Medical Board. Such referral could result in a citation and fine from \$100 to \$2500. Citations issued shall be disclosed to any inquiring member of the public. The citation shall be purged five years from date of issuance.

I am enclosing materials that provide additional information on reporting and how to report to \_\_\_\_\_ Health Department. Please note that it is your responsibility to initiate reports to the health department and that there are time frames for reporting (for example, meningococcal infections must be reported immediately by telephone, and tuberculosis is to be reported within one working day of the identification of a case or a suspected case). Please call me at \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ if you have any questions about these materials.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

**Referring Physicians to the Medical Board**

**Letter #2**

**Suggested letter to physicians after FIRST failure to report a non-emergency condition**

Date

Address

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_:

Your patient, \_\_\_\_\_, has \_\_\_\_\_, a communicable disease that is reportable to the health department by California law and regulation. Please provide the information requested on the enclosed form.

Many physicians are unaware of the laws and regulations of the State of California requiring that certain communicable diseases be reported to the local health department. Other physicians assume it is the laboratory's responsibility to report. California Health and Safety Code Section 120250 and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500 clearly state that the physician is required to report the listed communicable diseases. Patient consent is not required for reporting purposes. All states in the United States have similar laws. The information generated by these requirements is used to identify epidemics; interrupt transmission; establish risk factors for disease; track trends in communicable diseases at the local, state and national levels; and develop policies for prevention of disease.

In December 1996, the Medical Board of California adopted a procedure for citing and fining physicians who fail to adhere to the reporting laws and regulations of the State of California. Local health departments may refer physicians to the Medical Board for failure to report these diseases, for incomplete reporting, and for lack of timeliness in reporting. Such referral could result in a citation and fine from \$100 to \$2500. Citations issued shall be disclosed to any inquiring member of the public. The citation shall be purged five years from date of issuance.

I am enclosing materials that provide additional information on reporting and how to report to \_\_\_\_\_ Health Department. Please note that it is your responsibility to initiate reports to the health department and that there are time frames for reporting (for example, meningococcal infections must be reported immediately by telephone, and tuberculosis is to be reported within one working day of the identification of a case or a suspected case). Please call me at \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ if you have any questions about these materials.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

**Referring Physicians to the Medical Board**

**Letter #3**

**Suggested letter to physicians after SECOND failure to report a non-emergency condition**

Date

Address

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_:

Your patient, \_\_\_\_\_, has \_\_\_\_\_, a communicable disease that is reportable to the health department by California law and regulation. Please provide the information requested on the enclosed form.

As I explained in a previous letter to you, California laws and regulations (contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 120250 and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500) require that physicians report certain communicable diseases to the local health department. This requirement is independent of any reporting by laboratories. Patient consent is not required for reporting purposes. The information generated by these requirements is used to identify epidemics; interrupt transmission; establish risk factors for disease; track trends in communicable diseases at the local, state and national levels; and develop policies for prevention of disease.

In December 1996, the Medical Board of California adopted a procedure for citing and fining physicians who fail to adhere to the reporting laws and regulations of the State of California. Continued failure to report in a complete and timely fashion as specified in the laws and regulations will result in a referral to the Medical Board. Such referral could result in a citation and fine from \$100 to \$2500. Citations issued shall be disclosed to any inquiring member of the public. The citation shall be purged five years from date of issuance.

I am again enclosing materials that provide additional information on reporting and how to report to \_\_\_\_\_ Health Department. Please note that it is your responsibility to initiate reports to the health department. Please call me at \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ if you have any questions about these materials.

Sincerely,

Enclosure